OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

PRESENT STATE,

OF THE LATE

Dr. WARD's MEDICINES.

To which is added an Account (from Experience) of their real VIRTUES and EFFICACY.

Addreſſed to the Public, by J. WHITE, Chymiſt.

THE ſurpriſing efficacy of the late Dr. Ward's medicines, by him adminiſter'd, when other means for the cure of diſeaſes had been tried in vain, is I believe, very generally known. His book of receipts for preparing and compounding the above medicines, he bequeathed at his death to John Page, Eſq; of Watergate-Houſe, an intimate friend of the Doctor's, a man of very ample fortune, and a gentleman of the moſt approved generoſity and goodneſs of heart. This gentleman immediately after Mr. Ward's deceaſe (having in view the common good of mankind) conſidered of the beſt method by which theſe medicines might in future be genuinely prepared and come at by the loweſt of his Majeſty's ſubjects. But although he was poſſeſſed of the receipts themſelves, yet he acknowledges in a pamphlet to the public, that without the aſſiſtance of certain ingenious chymiſts who had prepared the medicines for Mr. Ward, his intentions would have been fruſtrated; many inaccuracies appearing in the tranſcript of thoſe receipts, and many things requiring that explanation which could only be given by thoſe accuſtomed to prepare them.

In the latter end of the year 1762, his Majeſty, upon the Application of Mr. Page, was graciouſly pleaſed to grant unto John White (then of the pariſh of St. Mary-le-Bone) chymiſt, a penſion of 300l. *per annum*, during his natural life, to the end, he might not ſuffer by the publication of the late Dr. Ward's principle medicinal ſecrets, and alſo to encourage him to give his aſſiſtance towards cauſing the ſaid medicines to be prepared in the moſt genuine manner, and diſpenſed to the public at very moderate prices. Receipts for preparing and compounding ſome of the above medicines were accordingly publiſhed, atteſted by my father the aforeſaid John White, Mr. D' Oſterman, (another perſon to whom his Majeſty was graciouſly pleaſed to grant 200 *l. per annum* on the ſame account) and the price of the medicines reduced ſo low, as to amaze many perſons who had been accuſtomed to take them in Mr. Ward's life-time, and almoſt to make them diſcredit the identity of them: and no wonder, when the White Drop which Mr. Ward ſold for a Guinea (and which medicine my father diſcovered and alone conſtantly prepared for him) was reduced to the Price of One Shilling.

The conſequence of publiſhing thoſe receipts was, that numbers of perſons immediately ſet to work to prepare the medicines; but without ſucceſs: for although they followed the proceſs ſet down, as exactly as poſſible, yet being unuſed to my father's method of working, and unacquainted with his particular ſyſtems, they found themſelves baffled in the operative parts, eſpecially in preparing the White Drop, which though ſome had proceeded with ſo far, as to be in outward appearance perfected, and that it would whiten water, yet it was found to be inefficacious, and (upon examination) very imperfectly prepared.

399038

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In regard to another of the medicines, called *Eſſence for the Head-Ach*, I am ſatisfied Mr. D'Oſterman muſt have miſtook when he gave the receipt for preparing it; as I myſelf have had it applied to my head by Mr. Ward, and have frequently ſeen it at his houſe, of a rich golden colour; whereas that prepared by Mr. D'Oſterman was clear and colourleſs as water; nor had it the propoſed effect: it might be efficacious in taking down ſwellings, for which purpoſe I believe Mr. Ward made uſe of it, or ſomething like it——As this preparation then, did not anſwer the expectation (being looked upon as little better than a commixture of ſpirits of wine and camphor) my father afterwards prepared the Eſſence for the Head-ach; and though I do not abſolutely pronounce it to be Mr. Ward's Eſſence, yet it is a moſt noble remedy not only for the head-ach, and other pains, but in many other caſes I have (by experience) found it infallible.——This receipt then remains in my hands only, nor will I communicate it unleſs to my own family.

Another medicine, the receipt for preparing which was given by Mr. D'Oſterman, as *Mr. Ward's Liquid Sweat*, he muſt have been likewiſe much miſtaken in, at leaſt with regard to the doſe; for I appeal to any gentleman of the faculty, or any other perſon who has ſtudied the medicinal art, whether thirty or even ſixty drops of ſuch a compoſition, can be ſuppoſed to raiſe a ſweat: no wonder then, that this medicine came into diſrepute, by its not performing the expected operation; and indeed how ſhould it (if even given to the quantity of a drachm) being only an infuſion of ſaffron, opium in bits, ſalt of tartar and cinnamon in ſpirits of wine and white wine, jumbled together three or four times a day in a bottle and then filtered.——The preparation of this medicine was likewiſe given up to my father, and by him greatly improved, as well by the addition of an ingredient, as in the proceſs; ſince which its efficacy has been happily proved both by my father and myſelf, as I have never found any fever which did not (by a proper adminiſtration of it) ſubmit to its force, and I have lately had three very ſevere ones to encounter with, two of the putrid, and one of the bilious kind.

As to the other medicines publiſhed in Mr. Page's pamphlet, I ſhall ſay nothing more than, that I hope thoſe who may think proper to prepare them from the receipts given, will beſtow all neceſſary pains and labour in the thorough purifying the ingredients therein uſed, and in the levigation of the glaſs of antimony for preparing the red pill; the neceſſity for which is too obvious to need my obſervations upon.

Having thus far ſhewn the neceſſity for a perſon being more fully inſtructed in the proceſs of making the White Drop (the principal medicine) than they can be from the receipt given, and the erroneous receipts and proceſs for preparing two others, I leave it to the public to determine with themſelves, what confidence they ought to repoſe in medicines prepared from ſuch receipts, without the leaſt further inſtruction from the perſon who uſed to prepare them; nor is there any one, except myſelf, properly inſtructed by my late father in the preparation of theſe medicines; yet thoſe now ſold (as the late Dr. Ward's) under the direction of Sir John Fielding and Mr. Dingley, are not prepared by me; and ſo little modeſty or conſcience have thoſe gentlemen, that they have repeatedly ſince the death of my father, and Mr. D'Oſterman, ſuffered their names to appear to an advertiſement in the public papers, ſetting forth, that the late Dr. Ward's Medicines are to be had at Mr. Parker's, book and printſeller in Cornhill, and at Mr. Marſhe's, bookſeller at Charing Croſs, and no where elſe in London, prepared by thoſe people who prepared them in Mr. Ward's life-time, and to whom his Majeſty, for the public good, now allows penſions on account of ſaid medicines, which they know to be abſolutely falſe.

Another advertiſer of Dr. Ward's Medicines, I think I need ſay little about.——He continues to prepare them, at the requeſt of the Doctor's ſootman (Mr. Moreton), who he tells the public is dead, and that he is executor to him, and for whom he had the Direction of the medicines ever

ſince Mr. Ward's death.——'Tis ſtrange, that ſo *noted a Chymiſt* ſhould be obliged to lug the Doctor's dead ſervant in by the head and ſhoulders, to inform the public afterwards that he prepared the medicines in Mr. Ward's life-time —— But what medicines does he mean? The White Drop he ſhewed me on his counter he owned was of my father's preparing.—Others may very probably be the remainder of the ſtock left at Mr. Ward's deceaſe (for the Doctor was pretty well ſtock'd, I believe, at the time of his death, with ſuch medicines as would keep); and I have the greateſt reaſon to believe this is the caſe, as our advertiſer acknowledged to me, that he has no receipt for preparing a ſupply of that medicine, which is called in his bill of particulars, the *Fever Remedy*, when his preſent ſtock ſhall be exhauſted.——Beſides this *curious* advertiſement, the following words are painted on his window-ſhutters: *By order of the executors, all the late Dr. Ward's medicines ſold here.*——Does he mean the executors of the late Joſhua Ward, Eſq; of Whitehall? or does he mean, by order of himſelf and the other executor to the Doctor's footman? If he means by order of the late Dr. Ward's executors, and thoſe gentlemen have really given him ſuch orders, I muſt beg leave to remind them of their having given two hundred pounds to my father, on conſideration of his not publiſhing and ſelling their late uncle's medicines (and particularly the White Drop) for the firſt ſix months after Mr. Ward's deceaſe.

I ſhall now proceed to give an account (from experience) of the virtues and efficacy of thoſe medicines, commonly called Dr. Ward's, as prepared by my father and myſelf.

WHITE DROP. [*One Shilling per Phial.*]

Theſe innocent, yet moſt efficacious Drops, are well known to be one of the greateſt antiſcorbutics and beſt purifier of the blood, in practice.—They do great ſervice in the Leproſy and King's Evil; and will bring away worms from children; are uſed with ſucceſs in the St. Anthony's Fire, and other inflammatory diſorders; are a great antivenereal; and are excellent in removing obſtructions, and promoting regularity in the female ſex.

Outwardly applied (but not wantonly) they cure pimples and other erruptions, either by ſometimes wetting the cork with the Drops, and touching the part affected therewith; or putting a few drops in a glaſs of water, and dipping in it a piece of linen rag, with which the affected part muſt be dabb'd.

The method of inward application.——Put two drops into a gill glaſs and fill it about two-thirds with pump or ſpring-water, drink it going to bed: do this three nights ſucceſſively, and then omit three nights; continuing this method till the bottle is finiſhed, or as long as the caſe may require.

ESSENCE for the HEAD-ACH, *&c.* [*One Shilling per Phial.*]

It gives almoſt immediate eaſe in pains of the Head, or any part of the Limbs, by pouring a little of it into the palm of the hand, and holding it very cloſe on the part affected till it is dry; repeat it if the pain is not relieved by the firſt application. With this Eſſence I have cured ſeveral very bad Sore Throats, by applying a piece of rag dipt in it to the throat at night going to bed, and have found the complaint entirely removed, by its being left on till next morning.—My wife, (juſt before I left Ham-Common) had a violent Sore Throat, inſomuch that ſhe could not ſwallow, or even turn her head without very great pain, but by a plentiful application of this Eſſence, a great diſcharge was occaſioned from her throat, and the complaint happily removed in three days time. Several other inſtances of this kind I could mention.—Properly applied in Tumours, I have never known it fail, and colud give many inſtances of it's ſurpriſing effects.

LIQUID SWEAT. [*One Shilling.*]

This is an excellent remedy againſt Fevers, Vomitings, Gripes, Complaints of the Head, Difficulty of Breathing, Hoarſeneſs and Weakneſſes peculiar to the fair ſex.—It will do great ſervice in the Gout and Rheumatiſm; and is a great ſtrengthener and reſtorative.—It is very mild in its operation,

operation, and ſeldom, till towards the morning, cauſes a gentle perſpiration, which muſt then be encouraged, and care taken not to catch cold.

The doſe is from one-third to half, or a whole bottle in a glaſs of ale or white wine, going to bed.—The patient may drink after it a draught of warm white wine-whey, if he thinks proper; but it is not abſolutely neceſſary.

RED PILLS. [Six in a Box, *Six-Pence.*]

They are excellent for Boils and ulcerous Sores; are very efficacious in rheumatic and other pains in the limbs; are beneficial to children and young people; being taken in the Spring and Fall, they keep them free from Worms, Coughs, Eruptions, and other Diſorders, which children are uſually ſubject to, by carrying off all internal foulneſſes, and preſerving them healthy; and are found to be a powerful remedy (if continued to be taken every ſecond or third day for ſome time) in moſt ſtubborn Chronic Caſes.

Bruiſe the Pill and take it in a ſpoonful of ſmall liquid on an empty ſtomach, and when it begins to operate, take about a quarter of a pint of thin water-gruel, or warm water between each motion. It works ſometimes upwards, ſometimes downwards (according to the nature and ſeat of the diſorder), and frequently by ſweat, which muſt be encouraged by keeping yourſelf warm, and drinking as above.—Milk, greens, and fruit muſt be avoided on the days you take it.

I have known this Pill in ſome conſtitutions (as is the caſe with me) to have no viſible operation, yet to have done great ſervice as a powerful alterative.

SACK DROP. [*Six Pence.*]

This is much of the ſame nature with the Pill, though it moſtly works upwards only, and is found to cleanſe the ſtomach more effectually than the vomits uſually given; nor does it occaſion uncommon reachings.—It is of great ſervice (as well as the Pill) in complaints of the head and eyes, occaſioned (as they ſometimes are) by a foul ſtomach. The bottle is a full doſe for a grown perſon, and is to be treated during the time of its operating, in the ſame manner as the Pill.—

SWEATING POWDER. [*Six-Pence.*]

Theſe Powders are moſt excellent in the Gout, Rheumatiſms, Pains in the body and limbs, and alſo in Coughs and other Diſorders proceeding from Colds.—

The Powder is to be taken in a glaſs of beer, white wine, or other Liquid: Let the patient lie between blankets, and encourage the ſweat by lying ſtill, keeping warm, and drinking now-and-then moderately of white wine-whey, or any other weak warm liquor: but drink nothing for the firſt half hour after taking the Powder.

N. B. In ſtubborn caſes the Red Pill taken between the days of taking the Powders, greatly facilitate, and ſcarce ever fail of perfecting a cure.—— Thoſe who are not uſed to, or cannot very well bear opiates, may begin with half a Powder, and encreaſe gradually to the whole doſe, as they find them agree with their conſtitution.

The above Medicines are to be had, ſealed with the Author's Creſt, at his Houſe, No. 12, in *Strutton-Grounds, Weſtminſter*; and are ſold alſo, by his appointment, at Mr. *Crowder*'s, Bookſeller, in *Pater-noſter-Row*; where Country Bookſellers and others may be ſupplied wholeſale, with a large allowance: And likewiſe ſold retail, at Mr. *Southern*'s, Bookſeller and Stationer, in St. *James*'s-*Street*; at Mr. *Eaton*'s, Spatterdaſh-maker to his Majeſty, in *Chancery-Lane*; at Mr. *Taylor*'s Operator for the Teeth, in *Devonſhire-ſtreet*, near *Biſhopſgate Church*; and no where elſe in *London*.

Any perſon deſirous of conſulting Mr. *White* will be duly anſwered, by directing to him (poſt-paid) as above.

*** Be careful to aſk for thoſe medicines, prepared by the ſon of the late *White*; and obſerve that his Creſt be on the ſeal.